



THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

The Woodlands, TX

NEWS RELEASE

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The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, Tuesday, May 26, 2020



Township Board of Directors to Meet Wednesday via Videoconference

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors will have a meeting via videoconference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. During the videoconference Board meeting, members of the public may provide public comment by calling 346-248-7799 or 888-788-0099 (toll-free), then enter ID 827 1846 7057 #. The meeting can be viewed online at <http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/778/Meeting-Videos>.

State News

Governor Abbott Proclamation:

Additional Services and Activities That Can Open Under Phase II

Governor Greg Abbott today [issued a proclamation](#) expanding additional services and activities that can open under Phase II of the state's plan to safely and strategically open. With this proclamation, water parks, recreational sport programs for adults, driver education programs, and food-court dining areas within shopping malls can begin operations with limited occupancy or regulations to protect the health and safety of Texans.

Beginning Friday, May 29th, 2020, water parks can open but must limit their occupancy to 25% of normal operating limits. Components of these water parks that have video arcades must remain closed. Starting Sunday, May 31, 2020, recreational sports programs for adults can resume, but games and similar competitions may not begin until June 15th. Driver education programs can resume operations immediately.

Food-court dining areas within shopping malls can also immediately resume operations, but malls are encouraged to designate one or more individuals who are responsible for ensuring health and safety practices are followed, including: limiting tables to six individuals; maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals sitting at different tables; cleaning and disinfecting tables between uses; and ensuring no condiments or other items are left on tables between customer uses.

Minimum standard health protocols outlined by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are recommended and located on the [Open Texas webpage](#).

[View the Governor's proclamation.](#)

For a list of open and closed facilities in The Woodlands Township, please visit <https://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1495/Re-opening-of-The-Woodlands>.

County News

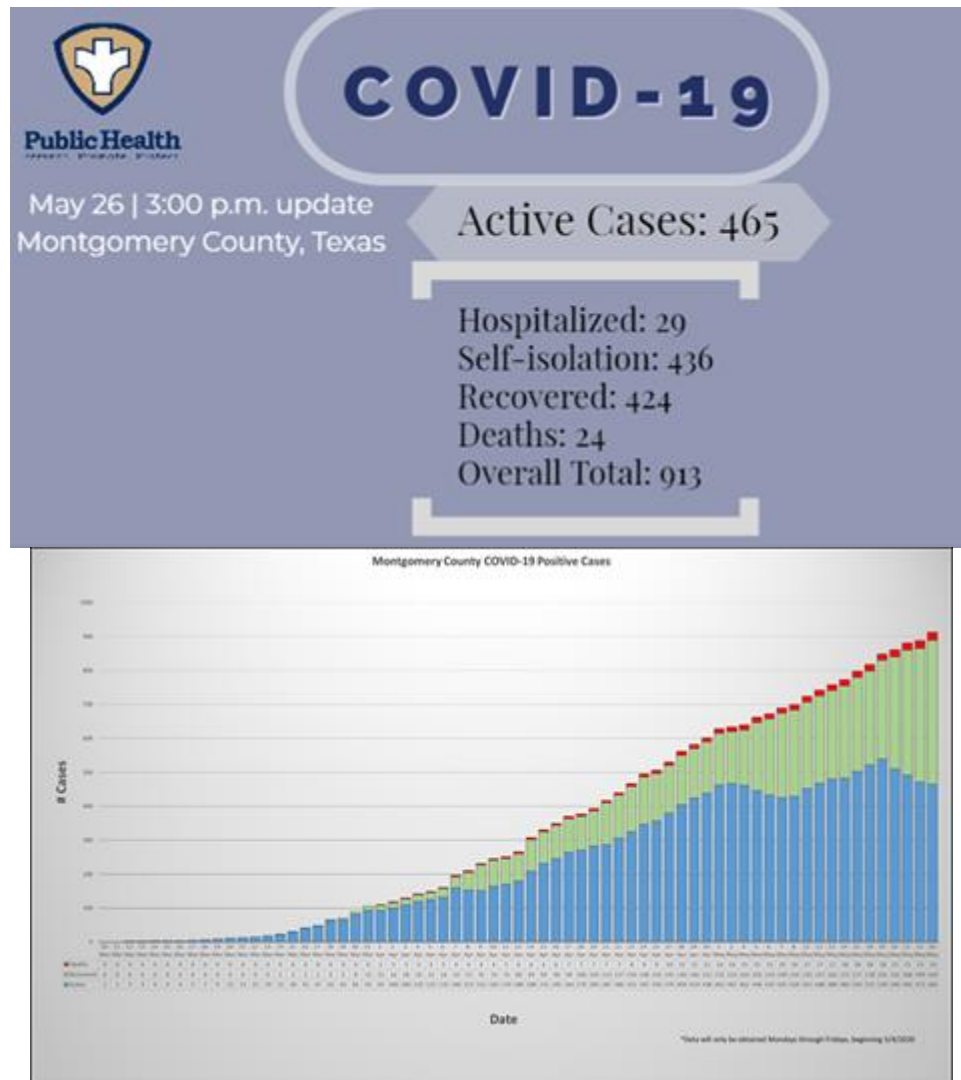
Montgomery County COVID-19 Case Count

Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is saddened to confirm the death of a woman related to COVID-19. She was in her 70s from Willis, and she died in the hospital. We offer our condolences to her family at this time.

The number of ACTIVE cases of COVID-19 has decreased to 465 today. That number includes 29 hospitalizations. 424 people have fully recovered. The number of total positive cases has increased 25 since Friday to 913.

The MCPHD website is experiencing technical difficulties at this time with the case-by-case list and the dashboard. Please be patient as they work to restore the sites. When the update is complete, you can view the list on the MCPHD website here: <https://mcphd-tx.org/coronavirus-covid-19/confirmed-cases/>. You can refer to the dashboard here: <https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The MCHD/MCPHD COVID-19 Call Center is open for residents needing COVID-19 testing through our voucher program, or for general questions, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Three COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites are now open in Montgomery County at Walmart locations provided below. These sites are supported by Walmart, eTrueNorth and state and local officials to test anyone who meets CDC and state and local guidelines on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers and others with symptoms of COVID-19 and those in high risk groups without symptoms. Those interested in being tested must visit www.DoINeedaCOVID19test.com to see if eligible for testing and to make an appointment.

- 20310 US 59, New Caney, TX 77357
- 18700 Highway 105 W., Conroe, TX 77356
- 1025 Sawdust Rd., Spring, TX 77380

“Walmart is part of the community, and we are proud to help support the expansion of COVID-19 testing in Montgomery County during this unprecedented time,” said Laurie Smalling Letts, Walmart Public Affairs Director for Texas. “We are grateful to our associates who keep our stores running, our pharmacists who support these testing sites, and to eTrueNorth and local officials as we work together to open the site and help our community.”

Harris County COVID-19 Case Count

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) publishes their daily case count, combined with the City of Houston's daily case count, here: <https://tinyurl.com/tzymvk5>. Cases by zip code in Harris County can be found by clicking on [areas of the map](#).

The Village of Creekside Park is located in two zip codes: 77375 and 77389 and these also include Magnolia, Augusta Pines/Auburn Lakes/West Rayford Road in northwest Harris County. Today, Harris County is reporting zip code 77375 has 79 cases and 77389 has 49 cases.

National News

Coronavirus Testing Basics

There are two different types of tests – diagnostic tests and antibody tests. A diagnostic test can show if you have an active coronavirus infection and should take steps to quarantine or isolate yourself from others. An antibody test looks for antibodies that are made by the immune system in response to a threat, such as a specific virus. [Learn more](#) about the different types of tests and the steps involved.



As we navigate this difficult time, The Woodlands Township encourages residents to observe CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety.



When in doubt: Stay home as much as possible and limit your person-to-person interactions.

CDC Reaffirms Virus Spreads More Through Person-to-Person and Not Surfaces

According to the CDC, social distancing is still the most important method of avoiding the COVID-19 virus, and residents are urged to understand how the virus is thought to spread:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Read more information on the [spread of COVID-19](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Township News



#TownshipTogether

Send us your photos! The Woodlands Township is calling on residents to share images of inspiration within the community. These can be a photo of something seen in the neighborhood, a family project or anything with a positive message. These will be shared through the Township email updates, social media channels and on [The Woodlands Township website](#). Send your photos to TownshipTogether@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

Thinking About a Home Improvement?

Applications for improvements are being reviewed and acted on by Township Covenant Administration staff. Applications can be mailed or submitted online. Please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covenants for additional information. Applications can be submitted online to: covad@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov



Did You Know?

Many of the Township parks and amenities are now open! This includes BMX parks (pictured above), disc golf, the archery range, dog parks and more. Proper social distancing, face coverings and hand-washing are still encouraged.

Around the Township



Try A Water Bike at Riva Row Boat House

The Woodlands Township recently began offering water bikes as a new and exciting rental option at Riva Row Boat House. Water bikes are being added to the many rental options

already available at Riva Row, including single and tandem (or double) kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and swan pedal boats. [Read more](#) about water bikes at the Riva Row Boat House.

Fourth of July Parade Cancelled

The Township has learned that the South County 4th of July Committee and Market Street have announced the cancellation of the 44th Annual 4th of July Parade, "*Stars & Stripes Forever*" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the potential of over 20,000 spectators and 200 volunteers gathering along the parade route through Town Center and Market Street, holding the parade would not be in the best interest of health and safety for the community.

More information about cancelled, postponed or revised Fourth of July events will be publicized as soon as information is available.



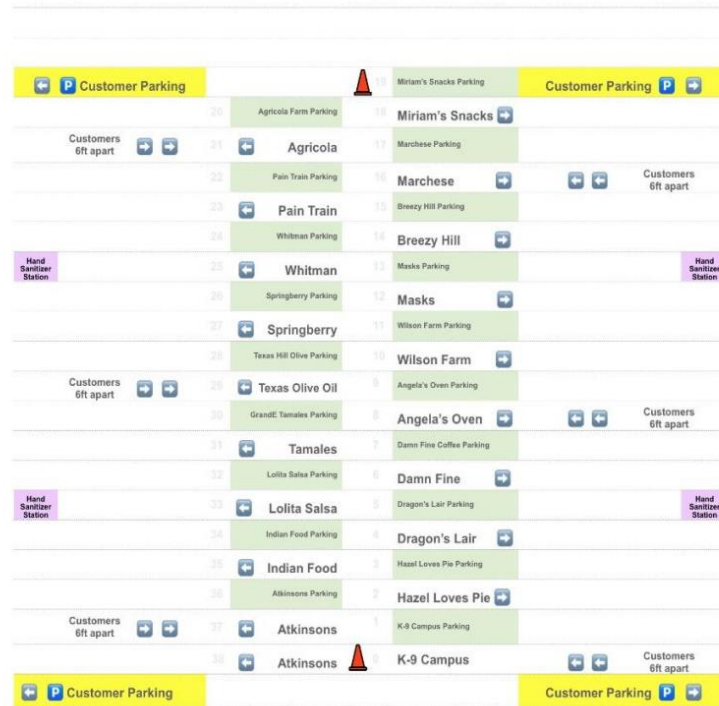
The Woodlands Farmer's Market Now Open Saturday Mornings from 8 a.m. to noon

The Woodlands Farmer's Market re-opened May 23, 2020! Customers are encouraged to check the [website](#), [Facebook page](#) or newsletter for definite details including phases in which the market will open, participating vendors, and best practices for visitors.

The market now has a different layout in order to promote social distancing for customers and vendors. Instead of having two aisles with the vendors facing each other, the vendors will be in a rectangle with the customers walking on the outside. There will be hand sanitizer stands and markers to help customers.



5/23 TWFM Layout



In order to keep customers, vendors and volunteers safe, the Market Committee has closely examined best practices from farmer's markets and farmer's market associations from across the United States. Consequently, The Woodlands Farmer's Market will be implementing the following prudent best practices (which may be subject to change):

TO MINIMIZE RISK TO ALL AND SLOW THE SPREAD, PLEASE

- If you are feeling ill, do not enter
- Masks are required for all
- In and out quickly, no lingering
- Sanitize hands before entering market and before leaving the market
- Follow social distancing – 6 feet apart
- If you touch it, you buy it
- Preorder and pay online when possible
- Pay by card or exact change
- No pets or children
- Avoid groups or gathering of more than 2
- No food or drink at the market



Open Stores at Market Street

Several retailers at Market Street are currently open with more opening in the coming weeks. Market Street management notes that individual retailers may require a mask and additional safety requirements upon entry, so customers are encouraged to call ahead to verify hours and guidelines. Visit their [website](#) for the list of currently open stores, phone numbers and Market Street's safety guidelines as it relates to common areas.



Open Stores in The Woodlands Mall

The Woodlands Mall reopened on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Visit their website for the list of currently open stores, safety measures and curbside pickup options.



Open Hotels in The Woodlands

Many of The Woodlands hotel properties are open and ready to welcome you to their location. The Woodlands Resort re-opened on May 20, 2020 and will be open every day, including Memorial Day. Find all the details on the Resort's [website](#). The Embassy Suites is opening their doors on June 1, 2020. Below is a list of all open hotels in The Woodlands at this time. Be sure to stay up to date by viewing [Visit The Woodlands](#).

- [Best Western Plus](#)
- [Candlewood Suites](#)
- [Drury Inn The Woodlands](#)
- [Hilton Garden Inn](#)
- [Hyatt Place](#)
- [Residence Inn Lakefront Drive](#)
- [Residence Inn Market Street](#)

Community Resources

Numerous resources are available in the community for support. These vary from food banks to financial assistance and much more. Please visit the link below to find more information about resources in the community related to COVID-19: <http://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1491/Community-Resources>.

Red Cross Family Assistance

The American Red Cross has launched a **Virtual Family Assistance Center** (VFAC) to support families struggling with loss and grief due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Red Cross is here to provide compassion and support to families as they grieve.

To help, the Red Cross has set up a virtual team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, support and access to resources that may be available

- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills (Coping in Today's World and Psychological First Aid)
- Sharing information and referrals to state and local agencies as well as other community organizations including legal resources for estate, custody, immigration or other issues
- Front-line responders, such as healthcare workers, workers at long-term care facilities, and other essential personnel dealing with families of COVID-19 patients, are welcome to call as well.

All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Please visit www.redcross.org/vfac to access a support hub with special virtual programs, information, referrals and services to support families in need. The hub will also connect people to other community resources provided by partners. People without internet access can call **833-492-0094** for help.

Township's Coronavirus page

The Woodlands Township's special COVID-19 information page can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19. This page features Montgomery and Harris county Hubs, community resources and updated COVID-19 news from the Federal Government and the CDC. This page also includes the latest news from The Township, updates from partner agencies, social distancing strategies, important links, frequently asked questions, live Twitter feeds and more.

Stay Connected

Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed.

The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme.